

THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
TO THE  
ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
FOR THE YEAR  
1949.

Council Office,  
ST. JUST.



Town Hall,  
ST. JUST.

To the Chairman and Members of the St. Just  
Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting the Annual Report for 1949 few points call for special mention except the considerable epidemic of jaundice in one of the schools. This is referred to later.

The great drought caused particular anxiety to this area in view of the poor supplies and some were in very great straits for water especially certain farmers.

The survey of the Sewerage in St. Just Churchtown was completed, but no further progress has been made for a full and comprehensive water supply.

I should like to thank the Clerk for the very cordial co-operation I have received from him and from his Assistant while, as always, the Surveyor/Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Lawry, has been of the greatest possible assistance. I must also mention with gratitude the great co-operation I have received from the two general medical practitioners living in the area.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W.K. DUNSCOMBE.

Medical Officer of Health.



STATISTICAL INFORMATION.

1949.

1. Population.				
Registrar General's Mid Year Estimate	...	4,073		
2. Area.	...	7,761 acres.		
3. Rateable Value.	...	£10,799		
4. Product of 1d Rate.	...	£41		
5. No. of Inhabited Houses.	...	1,439		
6. Comparability Factor.	...	0.86		
7. Live Births.	33 Male.	31 Female.	64 Total.	
	Rate per 1,000 Population 15.71			
8. Still Births.		...	NIL.	
9. Total Deaths.	35 Male.	29 Female.	64 Total.	
	Rate per 1,000 Population 15.71			
10. Infant Deaths.	1 Male.	- Female.	1 Total.	
	Rate per 1,000 Live Births 15.6			
11. Maternal Deaths.		...	NIL.	

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TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4.	1.	5.
Tuberculosis - Other Forms	-	1.	1.
Cancer of Buc. Cavity	-	1.	1.
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2.	2.	4.
Cancer of Breast	-	1.	1.
Cancer of all other Sites	3.	1.	4.
Diabetes	-	2.	2.
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	2.	3.	5.
Heart Diseases	8.	10.	18.
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1.	-	1.
Bronchitis	1.	1.	2.
Pneumonia	-	1.	1.
Other Respiratory Diseases	6.	-	6.
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1.	-	1.
Other Digestive Diseases	-	2.	2.
Appendicitis	1.	-	1.
Other Violent Causes	1.	1.	2.
All other Causes	5.	2.	7.

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PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart Disease	...	18.
Cancer	...	10.
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	6.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	5.
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	5.





## 1. WATER SUPPLIES.

The number of houses with a piped supply is	...	672.
The number of houses with a standpipe		
supply is	...	144.
The number of houses without any supply is	...	623.

These figures are of particular importance as in several parts of this area persons often have to buy water at so much per barrel or bucket. According to modern ideas it is quite wrong that intermediaries should be allowed to exploit those who are less well able to fend for themselves. Failing, therefore, the provision of a reasonable supply to most of the houses on the north side of the district, the Council should take over the supply of water by water cart to those houses not possessing a reasonable and accessible supply, or where the occupier is physically incapable of carrying the water. For example, the hamlet of Carnyorth, dependent upon one well, is one place where supply by water cart should be considered but there are many others where the Council should realise that some form of official supply is necessary.

In the past I have referred to the fact that the water supply to St. Just Churchtown is untreated, and though it comes from an Adit the fact that it falls off so materially in the summer is proof to my mind that some of the feeds are from the surface. I must repeat once again that in my view it is essential that this water should be chlorinated to render it safe.

## 2. SEWERAGE.

The survey by the Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Lemon and Blizzard of Plymouth, of the sewerage system in St. Just Churchtown was completed and a report rendered on how best to deal with the nuisance caused by the discharge of the crude untreated sewage at Boscean about which the Ministry had made enquiries. Nothing has been done and the discharge continues, but the Council must not allow this undoubted nuisance to continue for ever and they should be prepared to spend the necessary money. If at all possible, and it is possible, the houses at Tregeseal should be included.

## 3. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

By a favourable stroke of fortune although, as elsewhere, the weather was magnificent for the whole of the summer, the district escaped the epidemic of poliomyelitis which affected the other three authorities in the combined area. By so doing most of the theories of transmission of the disease were pretty effectively destroyed as though there were several cases in Penzance with which town there is frequent and almost continuous contact, this area escaped. However, in October an epidemic of jaundice started to affect the schoolchildren in the Cape Cornwall School. The greatest number was in the Primary School. This gradually spread to affect the children attending schools on the north side by the turn of the year. The cases seemed to be more numerous in girls than in boys and close personal contact appeared to have something to do with the spread. The incubation period was on the average 27 - 35 days. None of the usual common factors, milk, water, etc., seemed to be specially related.

Tuberculosis. This is a very serious matter in this area. The incidence of the Pulmonary form in the Urban District's area is at present higher than in almost any other Authority in Cornwall and gives rise to the greatest anxiety as so many persons (relatively) under 30 are affected. Bad housing and poor environmental hygiene here must assist in its spread, but it is possible also that individual resistance in this area may be less





and that the intermarriage of local families may assist this.

#### 4. HOUSING.

The unsatisfactory housing conditions in this area have already been indirectly referred to in the previous paragraph when discussing Tuberculosis, but I must say that the Council's post war housing record is far from impressive. There is a large number of houses throughout the area which should be the subject of action under the Housing Act, 1936 for clearance or demolition, but there is absolutely nowhere to put the persons who would be displaced. Progress has been so slow that the Council are in considerable danger of losing their 1950 allocation as none even under the 1947 allocation has yet been started, though it must be admitted that here the delay has not been all the Council's fault; but even so, there has been too great a reliance on requisitioned houses and an absence of the sense of urgency which is so necessary in dealing with this problem. So many houses in the district lack the most elementary amenities. To state the facts plainly, since 1945 twelve houses have been built in one estate in St. Just Churchtown and at the time of writing we have only just acquired the land to build a further ten.

#### 5. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

In January an Infant Welfare Clinic was started. It is held every second and fourth Friday and is well attended. The mothers by their regular attendance thus prove that there has been a need and it is rather satisfying to know that shortly after the coming into force of the Act, St. Just got a clinic - something they have been waiting and hoping for for a long time.

Unfortunately by the end of the year the District Nurse who had served the area so well for a number of years found it necessary to retire owing to illness. She was very well known and well liked and her retirement was a loss to the Service. I feel it only right, therefore, to pay tribute for the excellent work she did over so many years.

#### 6. SANITATION IN SCHOOLS.

The epidemic of jaundice affecting as it did schoolchildren almost entirely, naturally focussed the limelight on the Sanitary conditions in the schools of the area. It cannot be said that these are good, though overcrowding is not as bad as it might be. However, the sanitary conveniences are insufficient and by no means satisfactory. When inspected St. Just Mixed and Infants School seemed to obtain its drinking water from one tap, no beakers were provided and the only way children could get a drink was by putting their mouths round the tap. It is difficult to imagine that this did not have something to do with the carrying on of the jaundice so the tap was sealed off and the children told to go to the canteen across the road. This canteen is very clean and very well run, special care being taken in washing up dishes, utensils, etc., and it can hardly be incriminated. The conditions at the schools at Pendeen and Carnyorth are also unsatisfactory.

#### 7. STAFF.

The Council must give consideration to the staffing question as far as the Public Health Department is concerned, as the only whole time officer of the Council in this Department is the Surveyor/Sanitary Inspector, with the result that when he goes sick or wants a holiday all the technical work must stop. This is most unsatisfactory, and the Council should seek a solution, if necessary with a nearby authority.



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR, 1949.

## WATER.

### St. Just Supply.

An adequate supply was maintained during the year. This was only maintained through having the auxiliary pump at Nancherrow; our main Frazee Adit supply will not meet the summer requirements.

### Trewellard Supply.

As usual the manual pump was in use from April to October, and during that period water was available an hour or two each day for 6 days a week, there being no pumping on Sundays.

### Boscawell Supply.

This is a piped supply, but owing to the bad state of the pipes the supply is not satisfactory.

All other pumps and wells have been kept in order.

## SEWERAGE.

There have been no extensions carried out during the year, nor has anything been done about the sewer which empties into a cesspit on the north side of St. Just town.

## HOUSING.

No new houses were built during the period under review. Minor repairs were carried out on one occasion after written notice, and in five other instances after verbal Notice.

## GENERAL.

The four Bakehouses have been kept in a clean state.

The Schools in the area have also been kept in a clean state.

Approximately 100 lbs of tinned and other food was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

## NUISANCES.

		<u>Statutory</u> <u>Notice</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Notice</u>	<u>Verbal</u> <u>Notice</u>
Defective and Choked Drains				
repaired	...	-	1.	18.
New Drains Provided	...	-	1.	-
New Privies	...	-	2.	-
Privies Repaired	...	1.	-	2.
Dirty Privies Cleaned	...	-	-	5.
New W.C.s Provided	...	-	5.	3.
Dirty W.C.s Cleaned	...	-	-	3.
Various other Nuisances				
abated	...	-	-	13.
New Septic Tanks provided to				
replace old Cesspits or Privies		-	1.	2.



FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN  
RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1949 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF  
ST. JUST IN THE COUNTY OF CORNWALL.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

No. on Register	...	20.
No. of Inspections	...	35.
No. of Written Notices	..	Nil.
No. of Occupiers		
Prosecuted	...	Nil.

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2. Cases in which Defects were found :-

NIL.

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PART VIII of the Act.      OUTWORK - Sections 110 & 111.

NIL.

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A P P E N D I X A.  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.  
(CORRECTED NOTIFICATIONS)  
1949.

Disease. . .	Penzance.	West Penwith.	St. Ives.	St. Just.
Diphtheria.	1.	1.	1.	-
Scarlet Fever.	5.	-	3.	1.
Measles.	24.	205.	60.	34.
Whooping Cough.	3.	26.	12.	-
Cerebro-spinal fever.	-	-	1.	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	8.	3.	2.	-
Acute Polio- encephalitis.	1.	1.	1.	-
Pneumonia.	-	7.	1.	6.
Erysipelas.	-	3.	4.	-
Food Poisoning.	3.	6.	1.	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	1.	-	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.  
1949.

Area.	Number of Children who Completed a full Course of Immunisation in 1949.			Number of Children Receiving Refresher Doses.
	<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>5 - 14.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
PENZANCE.	215.	48.	263.	337.
ST. IVES.	40.	6.	46.	9.
WEST PENWITH.	166.	19.	185.	66.
ST. JUST.	54.	10.	64.	14.

APPENDIX B.  
TUBERCULOSIS. NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FOR 1949.

Nos. on Register at 31.12.49.													1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	Over 65	Total		
PENZANCE																							
Pulmonary													M. F.	76. 56.	- -	- 1	- -	3. -	2(2) 3	3(2) -	1(2) -	1(1) -	10(7) 4
Non-Pul.													M. F.	11. 17.	- 1	1 -	- 1	1(1) -	- -	- 1	- -	- -	2(1) 3
WEST PENWITH																							
Pulmonary													M. F.	61. 43.	- -	- -	1 -	- 1(1)	1(1) -	3(1) (1)	- 1(1)	- 1(1)	5(2) 3(4)
Non-Pul.													M. F.	32. 26.	1 -	(1) -	2 1	- -	2 1	- 1	- 1	- 1	5(1) 5
ST. JUST																							
Pulmonary													M. F.	26. 10.	- -	- 1(1)	- -	1 -	(2) -	(1) -	(2) (1)	- -	1(5) 1(2)
Non-Pul.													M. F.	6. 4.	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
ST. IVES																							
Pulmonary													M. F.	29. 19	- -	- 1	- -	2(1) -	1 -	- 1	2 1	- -	5(1) 3
Non-Pul.													M. F.	6. 6.	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- 1	- -

( ) = Deaths.

Total Notifications - 48.  
Total Deaths - 23.